vested interests arc making such suggestions;

(c) whether any pesticide of DU Pont is being examined by any Expert Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRIUCLTURE (SHRI ARV1ND NETAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) An Expert Committee is examining the continued use or otherwise of 15 pesticides in the country. These include Benomyl, Diuron and Methomyl pesticides which are manufactured by DU Pont also.

UNICEF Grants for Schemes in Rural Areas

1987. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNICEF has been providing grants for implementing some schemes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the States where UNICEF funded schemes arc being implemented;

(c) whether any such scheme has been introduced in Orissa;

(d) if so, since when and the achievements made under these schemes during the last three years; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare Scheme for Punjab

1988. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare schemes and programmes in the State of Punjab sponsored by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the schemes are financed by the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what effective measures Government propose to take to protect the interests of female children through the aforesaid schemes and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed *(see* below).

(d) The scheme of Girls Hostels for SCs is of special importance for female children. Similarly schemes for Post-Matric Scholarship, Pre-Matric Scholarship, Book Banks for SC/ST students, Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students and Pre-examination Coaching Scheme afford equal opportunity to the female children. The inmates including female children are provided with food, shelter and also provided vocational training for their rehabilitation in institutions set up under the scheme for 'Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment for negleted and deliquent children'.

Statement

The central/centrally sponsored schemes of Ministry of welfare under implementation in the States/

UTs and their funding pattern

SI. No.	Schemes	Fundfhg Pattern State/UT	Central
1.	SCA to SCP	—	100%
2.	SCDC	51%	49%
3.	Post-Matrie Scholarship	—	100%
4.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	50%	50%
5.	Liberation of Scavengers	—	100%
6.	Boys Hostels for SCs	50%	50%*
7.	Girls Hostels for SCs	50%	50%*
8.	Book Banks for SC/ST students	50%	50%*
9.	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students	—	100%
10.	PCR & Atrocities Act	50%	50%*
11.	Coaching & Allied	50%	50%
12.	Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment	50%	50%
13.	Pre-examination Coaching Scheme	—	100%

* 100% in the case of UTs (without Legislature)
% Over and above and committed liabilities of the State.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

1989. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not set up the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the authority is likely to be set up; and -

(c) the regulatory machinery at present which fixes prices of drugs and on what basis'?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Necessary steps have already been initiated by the Govt, to set up the NPPA. The NPPA will be set up as ' soon as the various approvals are received.

(c) At present, the prices of Bulk Drugs amd Formulations are fixed/ revised by this Ministry under the DPCO, 1995 and notified in the Official Gazette from time to time.

देश के कतिपय मंदिरों में देवदासी प्रथा

1990. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी** : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क)देश के किन-किन मंदिरों में देवदासी प्रथा विद्यमान हैं और ये मंदिर कहां-कहां पर स्थित हैं;

(ख)क्या उड़ीसा के जगन्नाथ मंदिर में देवदासी की प्रथा विद्यमान हैं, और

(ग)क्या सरकार इस प्रथा को समाप्त करने और इस प्रथा को बढ़ावा देने वाला व्यक्तियों के विरूद्ध कठोर कार्यवाही करने हेतु कदम उठा रही हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री (कुमारी विमला वर्मा) : (क) से (ग) देवदासी प्रथा उड़ीसा के केवल जगन्नाथ मंदिर में आवधिक धर्मविधि के रूप में जारी हैं। वर्तमान में केवल एक देवदासी कृष्ण जन्म के अवसर पर वर्ष वर्ष में केवल एक बार सेवा कर रही हैं।ए आन्ध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक और महाराष्ट्र राज्यों के कुछ क्षेत्रों में भी देवदासी प्रथा प्रचलित थी। इन राज्यों ने देवदासी प्रथा के निषेध के लिए कानून बनाए हैं।